United Nations S/2018/503

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 May 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 25 May 2018 from the Permanent Representatives of Australia and the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

We are writing to you in your capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of May.

We write in reference to Council resolution 2166 (2014), and further to letters to the Council dated 1 and 28 August, 9 September and 16 December 2014, 20 July and 13 October 2015, 28 September 2016, 5 July 2017 and 24 May 2018.

We have the honour to inform you that Australia and the Netherlands have notified the Russian Federation, through a note verbale (see annex), that the Russian Federation bears responsibility, under international law, for its role in the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 on 17 July 2014.

The note verbale was transmitted earlier today to the Russian Federation through diplomatic channels.

Australia and the Netherlands have invited the Russian Federation to enter into bilateral negotiations in relation to this matter.

We would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gillian **Bird**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

(*Signed*) Karel J. G. **van Oosterom**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-08485 (E) 300518

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 25 May 2018 from the Permanent Representatives of Australia and the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

135/18	MOS-087/18
Embassy of Australia	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

The Embassy of Australia to the Russian Federation and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Russian Federation present their compliments to the Third Asian Department and the First European Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and have the honour to draw the Department's attention to the following.

On 17 July 2014, an aircraft operated by Malaysian Airlines with flight number MH17 and carrying a total of 298 individuals was shot down from the airspace of Ukraine and subsequently crashed in the vicinity of Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine. This tragic event caused the death of all those on board the aircraft and tremendous grief to their next of kin. This grief continues to affect their lives to this day and is aggravated by the fact that no responsibility for the downing has been acknowledged.

An investigation into the causes of the downing of flight MH17 was carried out by the Dutch Safety Board (DSB), with information provided by Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States. The report of the DSB has revealed that the aircraft was shot down with a missile launched from a BUK-installation from the territory of Ukraine in an area that was under the effective control of separatists. Subsequent investigations by the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) concluded the exact nature of the weapon used and the fact that this particular BUK-installation was brought into Ukraine from the territory of the Russian Federation and was taken back to its territory after its deployment against flight MH17. The JIT announced on 24 May 2018 its conclusion that the BUK-installation belonged to the Russian Federation Army's 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade.

Based on these facts, Australia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands consider that the Russian Federation, through its role in the downing of flight MH17 on 17 July 2014, has breached several obligations under international law owed to Australia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in their own right and in the exercise of their right to protect individuals on board flight MH17.

These breaches of international law constitute internationally wrongful acts for which the Russian Federation bears responsibility. That responsibility gives rise to legal consequences for the Russian Federation to:

(a) Accept fully its responsibility for those internationally wrongful acts;

(b) Cease those acts forthwith;

(c) Provide Australia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands with appropriate assurances and guarantees of non-repetition of these internationally wrongful acts;

(d) Provide Australia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands full reparation for the injury caused by these internationally wrongful acts.

Australia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands request that the Russian Federation enter into negotiations with them in relation to these breaches of international law by the Russian Federation and the legal consequences that flow from them. Australia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands request a prompt response from the Russian Federation to this request.

The Embassy of Australia and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands avail themselves of the opportunity to renew to the Third Asian and the First European Departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation the assurances of their highest consideration.

Embassy of Australia
25 May 2018

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
25 May 2018

United Nations S/2018/504

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 25 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the identical letters dated 27 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2018/269). In those letters, Qatar put forward a claim that a Bahraini fighter aircraft entered the airspace over Qatari territorial waters at 1820 hours on 25 March 2018. I should like to inform you that these allegations made by Qatar are devoid of truth. They amount to falsification of the facts and the spreading of misinformation, and constitute an unwarranted escalation by Qatar. The Kingdom of Bahrain hereby confirms that the military aircraft in question were flying in airspace belonging to the territory of the Kingdom of Bahrain, over the territorial waters and within the sovereign borders of Bahrain.

I should also like to confirm that the Kingdom of Bahrain is in compliance with international regulations and laws protecting air navigation. The international air traffic control centre in Bahrain that is charged with administering the region's airspace could not be more mindful of the safety of civil aviation in that airspace. That is in stark contrast to the behaviour engaged in over the past few months by the State of Qatar, whose combat aircraft have been flying in close proximity to civilian aircraft and intercepting them in flagrant violation of international civil aviation laws, thereby putting civilian aircraft and passengers at risk. Bahrain is scrupulous about implementing all relevant international conventions and laws, especially those emanating from the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the provisions of the 1944 Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation and amendments thereto.

The State of Qatar must cease falsifying the facts and spreading misinformation. Such behaviour constitutes an unwarranted escalation that is deliberately designed to undermine security and stability and increase tensions in the region. Qatar would do better to strive for accuracy. These kinds of irresponsible actions and claims create a lack of credibility, run counter to the principles of good neighbourliness provided for in international instruments, and pose a threat to international peace and security.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jamal Fares **Alrowaiei**
Permanent Representative

18-08686 (E) 010618 010618

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United Nations A/ES-10/783–S/2018/505

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
5 June 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 25 May 2018 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Tensions continue to rise and the situation continues to deteriorate in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as Israel, the occupying Power, persists with its military aggressions and human rights violations against the Palestinian people. Israeli settlement activities, the blockade and targeting of civilians of the Gaza Strip, home demolitions, evictions, military raids, inflammatory rhetoric and provocations not only continue but are rapidly escalating.

The death toll from Israel's deliberate and lethal attacks on civilian protesters in the Gaza Strip in particular continues to rise as several of the victims have succumbed to their wounds since the time of our previous letter to you. Thousands of injured civilians also continue to be in need of emergency medical care, intensifying the demand on Gaza's extremely overstretched and depleted health-care system and further highlighting the deep trauma and human cost being borne by countless innocent civilians and their families in the aftermath of these attacks by the Israeli occupying forces, in grave breach of international law.

At the same time, Israel, the occupying Power, persists with its seizure and colonization of Palestinian land in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, also in grave breach of international law and in deliberate defiance and violation of Security Council resolutions. As reaffirmed by the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process in his briefing to the Security Council on 23 May 2018, settlement construction and expansion in particular in Occupied East Jerusalem and the surrounding areas continue unabated, further fragmenting the contiguity of our land and further destroying whatever viability may be left of the two-State solution.

All these unlawful and destructive actions are exacerbating the already critical and fragile conditions on the ground, creating further despair among the Palestinian civilian population and leaving no doubt whatsoever regarding Israel's rejection of the most basic tenets of international law and the pillars of a just peace, which the

18-09079 (E) 110618

Please recycle

State of Palestine still remains committed to achieving, along with the rest of the international community.

In this regard, I must draw your attention to the provocative announcement two days ago by Israeli Minister Avigdor Lieberman of the intention to implement plans for the immediate construction of 2,500 units in at least 30 illegal settlements throughout the occupied West Bank. In addition, plans have been announced for another 1,400 units to follow, bringing the total to 3,900 units, entailing the transfer of thousands upon thousands more illegal Israeli settlers to our land.

Such actions constitute further flagrant violations of international law by the occupying Power, including of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), and the consistent global calls upon Israel to cease completely its illegal, destructive settlement campaign in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem. These violations must be roundly and unequivocally condemned, and Israel must be demanded to immediately and completely cease these illegal acts.

These repeated declarations by Israeli officials and the pursuit of such schemes underscore yet again the true nature of Israel's colonialism, expansionism and lawlessness. Israel is blatantly seeking to enlarge its extremist settler population and superimpose "Greater Israel" on all of historic Palestine, working non-stop to de facto annex large areas of land in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Regrettably, the recent provocative and unlawful moves by the United States, Guatemala and Paraguay have only further emboldened Israel to continue with its illegal settlement enterprise, regardless of international law, regardless of the international consensus and regardless of the consequences.

Today, we are also compelled to draw your attention to the dangerous intensification of the dehumanization of the Palestinian people in Israeli rhetoric, as well as in some statements delivered at the Security Council.

While since 30 March 117 unarmed Palestinian civilian protesters have been shot dead by Israeli occupation forces and over 13,000 people injured, many of whom have been severely and permanently debilitated, the occupying Power continues to illogically and brazenly insist that it is the victim and that it is the one being endangered by the defenceless civilian population it is occupying. We absolutely reject such claims and this absurd and demeaning narrative, which is totally contradicted by the high number of Palestinian casualties and even the kinds of wounds sustained by thousands of innocent Palestinian civilians, including children, at the hands of the Israeli occupying forces.

It has been reported by several international organizations, including human rights groups, that the types of wounds sustained by those killed or injured by Israeli snipers reveal that the bullets used against protesters had been designed with the intent to kill. On hunting websites, 7.6 mm bullets are advertised as being "designed to mushroom and fragment" and "to do maximum internal damage to the animal". Such ammunition has been used by Israeli snipers against unarmed Palestinian men, women and children protesting for their rights.

According to the Medical Aid for Palestinians organization: "The majority of injuries have been to people's legs, and in many cases there is a very real risk of amputation. ... the kinds of wounds they have suffered will potentially maim them for life." The Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) also confirmed that "the demonstrators had been systematically shot either in the lower limbs (shattering femurs, knees and ankles), in the abdomen, the back or the head" and that the health-care system in Gaza had reached "a breaking point", with Gaza facing "a major human and health-care disaster".

Despite the plethora of evidence presented by human rights organizations and paramedics and journalists working on the ground, and by eyewitness accounts and video footage, describing and showing Israeli snipers, tanks and drones targeting peaceful Palestinian protesters, it is deeply regrettable and worrying that some States seem to believe that Israel is capable of no harm and that the harm done to Palestinians must have been provoked by and a result of their own doing.

This reflects layers upon layers and years upon years of the dehumanization of the Palestinian people, whereby the actions of Palestinians cannot be seen merely as those of human beings seeking freedom, but rather are seen through a distorted prism of terrorism. A Palestinian child, woman or man holding a Palestinian flag and asking for basic human rights is classified either as a terrorist or as having been manipulated by a terrorist. There is no third alternative: that these people are simply humans, like everyone else in this world, wanting to live normal, ordinary lives, in freedom, in peace, away from occupation and away from the decades of dispossession, deprivation and captivity that they have been forced to endure.

This tragic reality was starkly reflected in the statement of 18 May by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding Palestinians protesting: "But they are, in essence, caged in a toxic slum from birth to death; deprived of dignity; dehumanized by the Israeli authorities to such a point it appears officials do not even consider that these men and women have a right, as well as every reason, to protest."

Recognizing this phenomenon, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA stressed, at a press briefing in Gaza City on 22 May, that: "Dehumanizing an entire community will bring no peace to the region. Recognizing that Palestine refugees have the same rights and aspirations as everyone on this planet, that they have the right to live safely, in freedom, with adequate and essential services and opportunities, is essential." Furthermore, Lakhdar Brahimi of The Elders recalled that: "Palestinians have the right to fight for their rights with all the legitimate means available to them. This includes peaceful protest; Palestinians in Gaza are just as entitled to exercise this right as Israelis in Tel Aviv or Americans in Washington."

Here we must also recall that such protests against Israeli oppression are not new. Palestinians have been protesting and rejecting the unbearable conditions they have been facing for the past 70 years across the decades, desperately seeking to call attention to their plight. The attempt to connect all Palestinian protesters to one particular political group or to claim that they are being manipulated by one group is therefore not only inaccurate but also provocative, insulting and dismissive of their long-standing call for freedom and justice and for the rights they continue to be so cruelly denied.

Such systematic dehumanization of the Palestinian people compels us to insist on the humanity of the Palestinian people, which is being so callously dismissed. Palestinians, like their fellow human beings, are a people who cannot endure decades of violent oppression, domination and control by the Israeli occupation forces without at least voicing their rejection of this injustice, including by means of peaceful protest. It is not strange but rather normal and should be expected under the circumstances that Palestinians would rise up to protest the unbearable conditions forced upon them. There is no justification for a country to lay siege to millions of people and to kill and maim them when they dare to call for freedom.

In this regard, it must also be stressed that the shooting of peaceful protesters in Gaza is certainly not the first time that Israel has targeted and terrorized civilians, but rather follows a long pattern of Israeli violence and terror against Palestinian civilians. It has done so prior to and since its inception, including through terrorist groups such as the Irgun and the Haganah. In fact, in 2009, the United Nations Fact-

Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict concluded that the objective of Israel's military assaults on Gaza was to punish, humiliate and terrorize the civilian population.

The destructive impact of the above-mentioned violations is immense. This cannot be overemphasized in a situation marked by rising tensions, deteriorating socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions and deepening anger and despair among the Palestinian people living under this more than half-century occupation. We call yet again on the international community, including the Security Council, to ensure protection for the Palestinian people, to undertake serious and concrete measures to bring about a full cessation of all settlement activities and to hold Israel accountable for all its crimes before it is too late and the prospects for a just peace evaporate. In this regard, recent events further affirm the imperative need for the International Criminal Court to open an immediate criminal investigation into Israel's flagrant violations of international law.

This is a matter of urgency. It can no longer suffice to condemn or simply be appalled by Israel's illegal actions; practical measures are necessary to bring an end to Israel's occupation. The Security Council must immediately act to uphold its duties under the Charter of the United Nations and implement its own resolutions, without exception. This is the first and most vital step for signalling to the occupying Power that its defiance will no longer be tolerated and for compelling a halt to Israel's violations, creating an environment conducive to the dialogue and negotiations needed to bring about an end to this monumental injustice so that the Palestinian people can finally live in freedom and dignity in their own independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Despite the decades of oppression faced by the Palestinian people, we remain committed to justice, to human dignity and to the conviction that peaceful diplomatic, political and popular means and international legality will lead to an end of our suffering. We trust that one day our steadfastness in the midst of this oppression will be seen as a tremendous inspiration that, despite everything, we managed to live with dignity and uphold the values of the international legal system.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 636 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 22 May 2018 (A/ES-10/782-S/2018/485) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations S/2018/506

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 May 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 25 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith an information bulletin dated 25 May 2018 from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

18-08593 (E) 290518 290518

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Annex to the letter dated 25 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (25 May 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported five incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: two in Aleppo, two in Ladhiqiyah and one in Hama.

The Turkish representative office has reported four incidents of gunfire: three in Hama Governorate and one in Aleppo Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out two humanitarian operations: one in Mazlum, Dayr al-Zawr Governorate, and one in Tall Maksur, Aleppo Governorate. In total, 890 food parcels were distributed. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered was 3.8 tons.

In total, 1,818 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,581.56 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 108 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 81,175 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is unchanged — it is still 2,513.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

United Nations S/2018/507

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 27 May 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the fifty-first report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016) and 2393 (2017) (S/2018/484).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regrets that the authors of the Secretary-General's reports and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs continue to take a negative, politicized and hostile approach to the Syrian Arab Republic and its institutions. In the current report, they continue to ignore the concerns expressed by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in its responses to previous reports.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic finds it unacceptable that officials of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs should continue to try to transform the reports of the Secretariat on the humanitarian situation in Syria from genuinely international reports into reports that serve the agendas of certain Western States that are hostile to Syria and have no concern with the humanitarian situation of Syrians, their real assistance needs, or alleviation of the impacts of the crisis on them. Such an approach is a violation of the principles of humanitarian work and a waste of United Nations efforts and finances. It detracts substantially from the credibility of the United Nations and the objectivity of its reports.

Reading the fifty-first report of the Secretariat raises numerous questions that are of concern not only to the Government, but to all Syrians and anyone concerned about the humanitarian situation in Syria. Here are some of those questions:

1. After submitting 51 reports, has the Secretariat not yet noticed that the people who run the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs are violating the most basic principles of humanitarian work? We have in mind specifically the principle of non-discrimination. They focus on providing assistance to particular groups of Syrians to the exclusion of others, in implementation of instructions from Western States and extremist regimes in the region. They and their staff are also engaging in illegal intelligence-gathering activities that are prohibited by law.

2. What is the rationale for the insistence by the Secretariat and the authors of the reports on wilfully ignoring the horrific destruction and scorched-earth policy being pursued by the United States and its partners — in particular France and the

Please recycle

United Kingdom — in the ravaged city of Raqqah? Those States' aircraft, allies and affiliated forces have destroyed that city's facilities (including schools, hospitals and other infrastructure), displaced hundreds of thousands of inhabitants, and murdered thousands. Do not those actions constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity?

3. Are the Secretariat and the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs incapable of instructing the authors of the report to avoid delving into issues that are not part of their mandate and to stop making major legal errors, such as using the term "the non-State armed opposition" to refer to terrorists from the Nusrah Front and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) deployed in Yarmuk camp, eastern Aleppo, Idlib, Dayr al-Zawr and other areas?

4. Why are the authors of the report afraid to call things in Syria by their names? Why do they not characterize what the Turkish regime is doing to civilians in Afrin and other regions as the aggression that it is and call it a violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations? Why are the authors afraid to include in their report an accurate characterization of the tripartite aggression being conducted by the United States, France and the United Kingdom against Syria? Why do the authors of the report not come out and say that the illegal intervention in Syria by the "international coalition" is an act of aggression, and that the crimes committed by that coalition are war crimes and crimes against humanity?

5. Who instructed the authors of the report to ignore the impact of years of unilateral coercive economic measures against Syria on the capacity of vital sectors to meet the needs and basic requirements of Syrians and mount an effective humanitarian response?

6. What are the authors trying to achieve by ignoring the fact that the Turkish attacks against Afrin are what is causing the displacement and suffering among that city's civilians? Why do the authors hurl false accusations against the Syrian Government for not doing enough to respond to civilians' needs when they know full well that the Syrian Government is the party providing assistance, support and mobile clinics for civilians affected by the Turkish aggression and facilitating numerous medical evacuations?

7. Is it not shameful that the authors of the report should commend the Brussels Conference, at which attendees spoke about Syria on behalf of Syrians, when the organizers didn't invite or even coordinate with the Syrian Government, even though the latter is the primary party responsible for the present and future of Syrians and for responding to their needs? How can the authors of the report ignore the scandalous preconditions laid out by donors at that conference for financing humanitarian operations and refurbishing major services facilities in Syria? Setting such conditions is completely at odds with the principles of humanitarian work and the relevant United Nations resolutions. How can the people who run the United Nations violate the Charter and the relevant resolutions by co-organizing and co-chairing the Brussels Conference, which was held without consulting or coordinating with the Syrian State, let alone inviting it to attend? The Syrian Government stresses that the Brussels Conference and its outcomes are illegitimate because the principal party, which is the Syrian Arab Republic, was not present.

8. Why do the authors of the report deliberately ignore the major facilities provided and efforts made by the Syrian State, which has taken on staggering burdens to ensure greater effectiveness in humanitarian operations and the delivery of assistance to the Syrians in need who are the rightful recipients? The Syrian Government is providing generous assistance and basic services to Syrians without discrimination, and providing the necessary facilities to its humanitarian partners.

9. Has it not become clear from the behaviour of officials of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs that they are systematically shrinking the United Nations response to the needs of Syrians in areas that are in the process of being liberated from the terrorists, even though before they were liberated, those areas were considered high priority and those same officials launched campaigns and appeals for the delivery of humanitarian aid to them? That is what has happened in eastern Aleppo and other places.

10. Do not the Secretariat and its staff have an obligation to refrain from falling into line behind United States, British and French propaganda campaigns concerning the alleged use of chemical weapons in Duma?

11. Will the Secretariat demand that persons from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey and Israel who are proven to have supported terrorism and played a role in the war against Syria and the suffering of its people be turned over to the International Criminal Court and held accountable under international law?

12. Has the Secretariat not noticed the selective and politicized approach whereby the authors of the report have relied on sources of information provided by certain armed terrorist groups and certain politicized United Nations personnel? At the same time, they ignore or cast doubt on any information supplied by Syrian Government sources and even the reports of certain objective United Nations staff residing in Syria.

The Syrian Arab Republic puts these questions to the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, and looks forward to receiving detailed and clear replies as soon as possible.

The Syrian Government stresses to the Secretariat that the "collapse", or limitation, in the ability of the United Nations is not due to limited access or any of the other reasons alleged by the authors of the Secretariat reports and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. It is rather due to the politicized approach adopted by the authors of the report and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, who have allowed hostile agendas to trump the humanitarian and legal principles that are supposed to be guiding their work when dealing with the humanitarian situation in Syria.

The Syrian Government stresses to the Secretariat that it would be unfortunate if, now that eastern Ghutah has been liberated from terrorism, it receives the same treatment by the United Nations as was the fate of eastern Aleppo, Homs, Zabadani and other areas, which saw a reduction of humanitarian aid to the lowest levels that did not meet their minimum needs. We believe that neither the Secretariat nor the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs should satisfy themselves with following such an approach in Syria.

A professional and objective assessment of the humanitarian situation in Syria depends on the extent to which the Secretariat uses qualified humanitarian professionals who follow genuine and non-politicized humanitarian practice and are not subject to Western pressure. That is the approach that should be taken on all tracks when it comes to the situation in Syria, including a political settlement.

Lastly, we believe that it is neither politically nor professionally acceptable that this report was provided to the Syrian side so shortly before the date set for its consideration by the Security Council, unless the goal is to prevent Syria from responding to the report and expressing its opinion as part of a democratic and responsible process. The members of the Security Council have a duty to put an end to this kind of practice.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/72/882–S/2018/508

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-second session
Agenda item 35
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 29 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement dated 29 May 2018 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the illegal decision and violation of the fundamental norms and principles of international law by the Syrian regime in recognizing the so-called independence of the indivisible regions of Georgia — Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Permanent Representative

18-08815 (E) 050618

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Annex to the identical letters dated 29 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

29 May 2018, Tbilisi

On 29 May 2018, as a result of the manipulation from the Russian Federation, the Syrian regime made yet another illegal decision and in violation of the fundamental norms and principles of international law recognized the so-called independence of the indivisible regions of Georgia — Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia. With this act the Assad regime declared its support for Russia's military aggression against Georgia, the illegal occupation of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions and the ethnic cleansing that has been taking place for years.

Through this step the Syrian regime disregarded the international legal obligation to respect the territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of a sovereign state.

Considering the aforesaid, Georgia initiated the procedures to break off the diplomatic relations with the Syrian Arab Republic.

It should be stressed that the International Community firmly supports Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity and the policy of non-recognition towards its occupied territories.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls on the international community to duly assess the illegal decision of the Assad regime made as a result of manipulation by the Russian Federation and to undertake the relevant steps in response.

United Nations S/2018/509

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 May 2018

Original: English

Identical letters dated 29 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of grave concern.

Since the early morning, dozens of rockets and mortar shells were fired from the Gaza Strip at Israeli population centres, as a continuation of Hamas and Islamic Jihad's terror activities. These sustained attacks have continued unabated throughout the day.

A number of these attacks on Israeli cities and towns adjacent to the Gaza Strip took place as parents were preparing their young children for the school day. One of the shells exploded in the yard of a kindergarten, causing extensive damage to the building. This was the result of the deliberate targeting of civilians, including children, by the terrorists.

The Israel Defense Forces has targeted the terror infrastructure of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, including a terror tunnel dug by Hamas adjacent to the Kerem Shalom humanitarian crossing. We will continue to take all necessary steps to protect our citizens.

For weeks, we have warned that the violent riots along the security fence with Gaza, which included improvised explosive devices and the firing of weapons at our security forces, were not spontaneous protests, but rather part of a coordinated violent attack against the State of Israel. The shells and rockets fired at our citizens leave no doubt about the true intentions of those who incited, encouraged and even paid for these ongoing riots. Hamas actions have led not only to attacks on our citizens, but to extensive damage to the civilian infrastructure of the residents of Gaza, including their electricity supply.

In the interest of restoring calm and protecting civilians on both sides of the fence, I request that you strongly condemn Hamas and hold the terrorist organization accountable for these latest attacks.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-08599 (E) 310518

Please recycle

United Nations A/ES-10/784–S/2018/510

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
5 June 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 29 May 2018 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Since 30 March 2018, we have been repeatedly compelled to draw your attention to the illegal actions being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people, in particular in the Gaza Strip in the context of the Great March of Return. Such criminal actions by the occupying Power, including the lethal use of force against unarmed civilian protesters, have exacerbated the already-severe protection crisis being endured by our people and risk the further ratcheting-up of tensions and destabilization of the situation, with grave consequences.

It is urgent that the international community act, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the relevant resolutions, to immediately address this situation in order to de-escalate this dangerous situation, to deter further violence and to protect civilian lives. In this regard, we reiterate our unequivocal stance against any and all forms of violence against civilians.

Today's cycle of violence underscores the urgency of action. Throughout the day, Israel has launched numerous air strikes against the occupied and besieged Gaza Strip, threatening to fully ignite another round of deadly violence and further threatening international peace and security. We condemn in the strongest terms these Israeli military attacks on the densely populated Gaza Strip, which are further endangering civilian lives and causing damage and destruction to civilian property, including, inter alia, a school.

This escalation in violence follows weeks of Israeli aggression against Palestinian civilian protesters in Gaza, in which Israeli occupying forces killed 118 Palestinians, including children. One of the victims, Nasser Aaref al-Ureini, age 28, succumbed to his wounds just yesterday, 28 May, raising the death toll. A total of 13,000 Palestinians have been injured, with many requiring further surgery and medical treatment and many disabled for life. Today's escalation also follows the killing of four other Palestinians in Gaza by Israeli tank fire yesterday, 28 May, which provoked today's cycle of violence.

18-09085 (E) 110618

Please recycle

Moreover, it cannot be forgotten that this escalation is happening against the backdrop of more than 50 years of Israel's foreign occupation and brutal repression, collective punishment and the humiliation of the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza through a suffocating, illegal and inhumane air, land and sea blockade.

In this regard, we must remind you that Israel is the occupying Power, having committed, and continuing to commit, an endless list of atrocities and war crimes against the Palestinian people that it has occupied, besieged and oppressed for decades. We should never blur the lines between legal actions that can be taken by States to ensure security, in line with the Charter and international law, and actions that, in fact, constitute violations of international law and war crimes. There can be no justification for Israel's continued illegal occupation of and aggression against our people, nor for its illegal blockade of Gaza, nor for its continued colonization of our land.

Furthermore, Israel cannot claim a right to security for the occupying Power while callously denying the occupied people their right to security. In this regard, we have stated repeatedly and reiterate once more: the right to security is not exclusive to Israel, but rather a right for all, including the Palestinian people.

Statements by Israeli officials are foreboding and must not be ignored. This includes recent statements by the Prime Minister of Israel, who has pledged to use "great force" against Gaza, and by the Israeli intelligence minister, who has stated that Israel was "closest to the threshold of war" since 2014. Such inflammatory statements and incitement reveal the true intentions of the occupying Power to intensify its actions and plunge the area into another deadly and destructive cycle of violence, regardless of the consequences and with total disregard for the calls for the immediate cessation of violence and de-escalation of the situation.

Such threats of further escalation will only ensure the loss of more innocent civilian lives among the occupied and defenceless Palestinian population. It will only lead to the further deterioration of the already-dire humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where nearly 2 million Palestinians continue to live in deep isolation and deprivation and have still not recovered from the effects of the massive human devastation and physical destruction caused by previous Israeli military aggressions against Gaza, as well as from the mass casualties sustained as a result of Israel's shooting of peaceful Palestinian protesters over the past few weeks.

We call on the international community, including the Security Council, to act forthwith to bring an immediate halt to this escalation of violence and to demand that Israel, the occupying Power, fully and scrupulously abide by its legal obligations under the Charter and as an occupying Power under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

At this time, I must also draw your attention to the continuation of Israel's illegal colonization of Palestinian land, including the destruction, theft and confiscation of Palestinian lands and properties, the construction and expansion of both settlements and the Wall, and the forcible transfer of Palestinian communities in a continuation of our ongoing dispossession and Nakbah.

In this regard, the recent period has seen measures aimed at the forcible transfer of Palestinian Bedouin communities from within and around Occupied East Jerusalem, including the sensitive "E-1" area, for the construction and expansion of settlements. These measures not only are in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention, thus constituting war crimes, but also threaten to completely sever the West Bank from East Jerusalem, destroying any chance of implementing the two-State solution.

For years, Israel has been advancing its plans to forcibly transfer the Bedouin population of the Khan al-Ahmar area north-east of Occupied East Jerusalem, the

majority of whom are Palestine refugees, in order to facilitate the expansion of its illegal settlements. We have drawn the attention of the international community to this urgent situation numerous times, including in regard to the repeated demolition by Israeli occupation forces of Khan al-Ahmar's makeshift homes and schools. Regrettably, our calls have never been met with concrete action aimed at deterring the occupying Power from the perpetration of these crimes.

On 24 May, the Israeli so-called Supreme Court approved the demolition and forcible transfer of the entire community of Khan al-Ahmar Abu al-Helu, home to 35 Palestinian families and with a total population of 180 civilians, for the purpose of constructing thousands of new illegal settlement units. According to the Israeli plan, the community will most likely be forcibly relocated to an area near a landfill in Abu Dis. The Palestinian structures set for demolition include a primary school, which was built in 2009 by the Italian aid organization Vento Di Terra and serves 170 children from five different Bedouin communities in the East Jerusalem area.

The cumulative result of all of these ongoing illegal Israeli policies and actions is the deepening of the protection crisis being endured by the Palestinian civilian population. We thus renew our call on the international community, particularly the Security Council, to uphold its obligations under the Charter, international law and all relevant resolutions pertaining to the rights and protection of civilians in armed conflict, including foreign occupation. We reiterate that the Palestinian civilian population under Israel's occupation, including in the Gaza Strip, must be guaranteed protection and cannot remain the exception to the obligations and commitments made to protect civilians in all circumstances from atrocities and flagrant breaches of the law.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 637 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432–S/2000/921) to 25 May 2018 (A/ES-10/783–S/2018/505), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations S/2018/511

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 29 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

With reference to the letter dated 23 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Israeli regime to the United Nations (S/2018/495) and pursuant to my letters dated 9 March 2017 (S/2017/205), 20 February 2018 (S/2018/142), 9 May 2018 (S/2018/445) and 14 May 2018 (S/2018/459), while rejecting the baseless allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to draw your attention to the following:

Contrary to the claim in the above-mentioned letter, none of the ballistic missiles of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, since Iran, as a non-nuclear-weapon State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, does not have such weapons nor intends to acquire them.

The repeated attempts by the Israeli regime to obfuscate the terms of paragraph 3 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015) by linking them to the criteria used under the Missile Technology Control Regime are futile and will not change the fact that there is no reference to such criteria in the above-mentioned paragraph of annex B.

The reference by the representative of the Israeli regime to the Missile Technology Control Regime, in which Israel itself is not a participant nor bound by, and to Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), which Israel has relentlessly dishonoured and undermined its provisions on a daily basis since January 2016, is part of a misinformation campaign that only the Israeli regime is capable of so doing; a shameless violator of tens of Security Council resolutions and international law.

In the meantime, the Islamic Republic of Iran, like all States Members of the United Nations, has the right to take measures necessary to strengthen its conventional defence capability and will continue to do so in order to ensure its territorial integrity and to forestall and repel any aggression against its territory.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-08681 (E) 010618

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United Nations S/2018/512

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 May 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 29 May 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to paragraph 5 (a) of Security Council resolution 1977 (2011), by which the Council requested the Secretary-General to establish, in consultation with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), a group of up to eight experts, acting under the direction and purview of the Committee, composed of individuals with the appropriate experience and knowledge to provide the Committee with expertise, to assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate.

Subsequently, in its resolution 2055 (2012), the Security Council decided to increase the size of the group of experts to up to nine experts.

Recalling paragraph 5 (a) of resolution 1977 (2011), the Committee, in its report on recommendations for the structure, methods, modalities, expertise and representation of the Committee and its group of experts (S/2011/819, annex), recommended that the Secretary-General, in consultation with and with the prior consent of the Committee, appoint a coordinator of the group, who would coordinate the activities of the other members of the group.

On 21 May 2018, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs was informed that the Committee had nominated Raphaël Prenat (France) to serve as Coordinator of the group of experts.

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that I have appointed Mr. Prenat to that role.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

18-08747 (E) 010618

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United Nations S/2018/513

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 June 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 29 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period from 26 to 29 May 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

18-08909 (E) 050618 060618

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Annex to the letter dated 29 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (26 May 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported one incident of gunfire in Aleppo Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported five incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: three in Hama, one in Aleppo and one in Dar'a.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out one humanitarian operation in Muh Hasan, Dayr al-Zawr Governorate: 445 food parcels were distributed. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered was 1.9 tons.

In total, 1,819 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,582.46 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 12 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 81,187 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is unchanged — it is still 2,513.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (27 May 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported five incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: three in Aleppo, one in Hama and one in Idlib.

The Turkish representative office has reported four incidents of gunfire: three in Hama Governorate and one in Dar'a Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out one humanitarian operation in Hadar, Qunaytirah Governorate: 445 food parcels were distributed. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered was 1.9 tons.

In total, 1,820 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,584.36 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 12 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 81,199 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is unchanged — it is still 2,513.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (28 May 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported four incidents of gunfire: two in Aleppo Governorate and two in Ladhiqiyah Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported two incidents of gunfire: one in Aleppo Governorate and one in Hama Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,820 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,584.36 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to eight residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 81,207 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is unchanged — it is still 2,513.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (29 May 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported two incidents of gunfire: one in Aleppo Governorate and one in Ladhiqiyah Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported five incidents of gunfire: four in Aleppo Governorate and one in Hama Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

Two United Nations humanitarian convoys were dispatched to eastern Jizah and western Jasim in Dar'a Governorate. The total cargo weight was 52 tons.

In total, 1,820 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,584.36 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 11 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 81,218 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is unchanged — it is still 2,513.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

United Nations S/2018/514

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 May 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 24 May 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing with reference to Security Council resolution 2368 (2017), by which the Council extended the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsperson until 17 December 2021.

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that, after consulting the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, I have appointed Daniel Kipfer Fasciati (Switzerland) as Ombudsperson.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

18-08736 (E) 010618

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United Nations S/2018/515

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 May 2018

Original: English

United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and statements on South Sudan, in particular resolutions 2057 (2012), 2109 (2013), 2132 (2013), 2155 (2014), 2187 (2014), 2206 (2015), 2241 (2015), 2252 (2015), 2271 (2016), 2280 (2016), 2290 (2016), 2302 (2016), 2304 (2016), 2327 (2016), 2353 (2017), 2392 (2017), and 2406 (2018),

Condemning in the strongest terms the ongoing fighting in violation of the 21 December 2017 "Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians, and Humanitarian Access" (the ACOH), *reiterating* its demand that South Sudan's leaders implement the permanent ceasefire declared in the 2015 "Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan" and ceasefires for which they respectively called on 11 July 2016 and 22 May 2017, as well as the ACOH, and *calling on* South Sudanese parties to demonstrate the political will to peacefully resolve the conflict,

Determining that the situation in South Sudan continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to renew until 15 July 2018 the measures imposed by paragraphs 9 and 12 of resolution 2206 (2015), and *reaffirms* the provisions of paragraphs 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15 of resolution 2206 (2015), and the provisions of paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of resolution 2290 (2016);

2. *Decides* to extend until 14 August 2018 the mandate of the Panel of Experts as set out in subparagraphs (a), (b), (c), and (f) of paragraph 12 of resolution 2290 (2016), and *decides* that the Panel of Experts should provide to the Committee updates each month, and *expresses its intention* to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding the further extension of the mandate no later than 15 July 2018;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM), to report by 30 June 2018 whether any fighting has taken place since adoption of this resolution involving parties to the cessation of hostilities agreement in South Sudan and to report on whether the parties have come to a viable political agreement and *decides* that if the Secretary-General reports such fighting or lack of a viable political agreement, it shall consider applying the measures specified in paragraphs 9 and 12 of resolution 2206 (2015) to the individuals identified in Annex 1 to this resolution and/or an arms embargo within five days of the Secretary-General's report;

4. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

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Annex 1

Travel Ban/Asset Freeze (Individuals)

1. (1) Koang (2) Rambang (3) Chol

a. *Description*: Rambang led attacks in Bieh state that expanded or extended the conflict in South Sudan. He ordered his forces to restrict the movement of people working in humanitarian organizations. He was responsible for the detention of two pilots delivering aid, obstructing their humanitarian activities.

b. *A.K.A.*: (a) Koang (b) Rambang (c) Chuol

c. *Identifiers*: na

2. (1) Kuol (2) Manyang (3) Juuk

a. *Description*: Under Juuk's command, SPLA forces violated the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians, and Humanitarian Access (ACOH) after it was signed by the Government of South Sudan in 2017 by attacking civilians. Juuk provided military equipment to the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), in violation of the ACOH. In 2017, under Juuk's command the SPLM expanded or extended the conflict through offensives in Pagak.

b. *A.K.A.*: (a) Kuol (b) Manyang (c) Juuk Chaw

c. *Identifiers*: DOB: 1945

3. (1) Malek (2) Reuben (3) Riak (4) Rengu

a. *Description*: As SPLA Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Riak was one of the senior officials of the Government of South Sudan who planned and oversaw an offensive in 2015 that resulted in widespread destruction and large population displacement.

b. *A.K.A.*: (1) Malek (2) Ruben

c. *Identifiers*: DOB: 01 Jan 1960

4. (1) Martin (2) Elia (3) Lomuro

a. *Description*: In violation of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians, and Humanitarian Access (ACOH) signed by the Government of South Sudan in 2017, Lomuro threatened members of the press, obstructed humanitarian missions, and threatened to eliminate the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM). Lomuro also obstructed the activities of UNMISS.

b. *A.K.A.*: (a) Martin (b) Elia (c) Lomoro; (a) Martin (b) Elias (c) Lomoro

c. *Identifiers*: DOB: (a) November 20, 1957 or (b) December 1958

5. (1) Michael (2) Makuei (3) Lueth

a. *Description*: Makuei expanded or extended the conflict in South Sudan through planning and coordinating a 2014 attack on the UN compound sheltering internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Bor. He obstructed the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity, and worked to obstruct deployment of the Regional Protection Force of UNMISS. As Minister of Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications, and Postal Services he has overseen attempts to repress the freedom of expression of civilians through the suppression of publications. He worked to close a UN-operated radio station authorized by the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) between the government and the UN.

b. *A.K.A.*: (a) Michael Makwei (b) Michael Makwei Lueth (c) Michael Makuei Lueth Makuei

c. *Identifiers*: DOB: 1947; POB: (a) Bor, South Sudan (b) Bor, Sudan; Nationality: (a) South Sudan (b) Sudan (c) Kenya

6. (1) Paul (2) Malong (3) Awan

a. *Description*: As Chief of General Staff of the SPLA, Malong expanded or extended the conflict in South Sudan through breaches of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and breaches of the 2015 Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS). He reportedly directed efforts to kill opposition leader Riek Machar. He ordered SPLA units to prevent the transport of humanitarian supplies. Under Malong's leadership, the SPLA attacked civilians, schools and hospitals; forced the displacement of civilians; carried out enforced disappearances; arbitrarily detained civilians; and conducted acts of torture, and rape. He mobilized the Mathiang Anyoor Dinka tribal militia, which uses child soldiers. Under his leadership, the SPLA restricted UNMISS, JMEC, and CTSAMM access to sites to investigate and document abuses.

b. *A.K.A.*: (a) Paul Malong Awan Anei (b) Paul Malong (c) Bol Malong

c. *Identifiers*: DOB: 1962; Alt DOB: (a) 4 December 1960 or (b) 12 April 1960; POB: Malualkon, South Sudan; Nationality: (a) South Sudan (b) Uganda; Passport Nos.: (a) South Sudan S00004370 (b) South Sudan D00001369 (c) Sudan 003606 (d) Sudan 00606 (e) Sudan B002606

United Nations S/2018/516

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2018

Original: English

Kuwait: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling all of its relevant resolutions, including, inter alia, resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 605 (1987), 904 (1994), 1397 (2002), 1544 (2004), 1515 (2003), 1850 (2008), 1860 (2009), and 2334 (2016),

Recalling also its Presidential Statement 2014/13 of 28 July 2014,

Bearing in mind the letter (S/2015/809) of 21 October 2015 by the Secretary-General,

Recalling also its resolutions on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including its resolutions on children and armed conflict, including, *inter alia*, resolutions 1894 (2009) and 2225 (2015), as well as its relevant presidential statements, and its resolutions on the protection of medical and humanitarian personnel and on the protection of journalists, media professionals and associated personnel in armed conflicts, including, *inter alia*, resolutions 2286 (2016) and 2222 (2015), as well as its other relevant resolutions and presidential statements,

Reaffirming the obligation to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances in accordance with Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions,

Expressing its grave concern at the escalation of violence and tensions and the deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular since 30 March 2018, and its deep alarm at the loss of civilian lives and the high number of casualties among Palestinian civilians, particularly in the Gaza Strip, including casualties among children, caused by the Israeli forces,

Condemning all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror, as well as all acts of provocation, incitement and destruction,

Reaffirming the right to peaceful assembly and protest, freedom of expression and of association,

Emphasizing the need to pursue measures of accountability, stressing in this regard the importance of ensuring independent and transparent investigations in accordance with international standards,

Alarmed at the exacerbation of the dire humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, and *stressing* the need to achieve a sustainable solution to this crisis in line with international law,

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Stressing the particular impact that armed conflict has on women and children, including as refugees and displaced persons, as well as on other civilians who may have specific vulnerabilities, including persons with disabilities and older persons, and stressing the need for the Security Council and Member States to strengthen further the protection of civilians,

Recalling that a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only be achieved by peaceful means in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions and through credible and direct negotiations,

Stressing that the Gaza Strip constitutes an integral part of the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967,

Reaffirming the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

1. *Calls* for full respect by all parties for international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including in regards to the protection of the civilian population, and reiterates the need to take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and well-being of civilians and ensure their protection, as well as to ensure accountability for all violations;

2. *Deplores* the use of any excessive, disproportionate and indiscriminate force by the Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and particularly in the Gaza Strip, including the use of live ammunition against civilian protesters, including children, as well as medical personnel and journalists, and *expresses* its grave concern at the loss of innocent lives;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, refrain from such actions and fully abide by its legal obligations and responsibilities under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949;

4. *Deplores* any actions that could provoke violence and endanger civilian lives and *calls on* all actors to ensure that protests remain peaceful;

5. *Deplores* the firing of rockets from the Gaza Strip against Israeli civilian areas;

6. *Calls* for urgent steps to ensure an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire;

7. *Calls* for the exercise of maximum restraint and calm by all parties and the need for immediate and significant steps to stabilize the situation and to reverse negative trends on the ground;

8. *Reaffirms* its willingness to respond to situations of armed conflict where civilians are being targeted or humanitarian assistance to civilians is being deliberately obstructed, including through the consideration of appropriate measures that the Security Council may take in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

9. *Calls* for the consideration of measures to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in the Gaza Strip;

10. *Calls also* for immediate steps towards ending the closure and the restrictions imposed by Israel on movement and access into and out of the Gaza Strip, including through the sustained opening of the crossing points of the Gaza Strip for

the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons in accordance with international law, including as it pertains to legitimate security requirements;

11. *Demands* that all parties cooperate with medical and humanitarian personnel to allow and facilitate unimpeded access to the civilian population, and calls for the cessation of all forms of violence and intimidation directed against medical and humanitarian personnel;

12. *Urges* the provision of immediate and unimpeded humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, bearing in mind critical medical, food, water and fuel needs, and *urges* increased support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, recognizing the vital role of the Agency, alongside other UN agencies and humanitarian organizations, in providing humanitarian and emergency assistance, notably in the Gaza Strip;

13. *Encourages* tangible steps towards intra-Palestinian reconciliation, including in support of the mediation efforts of Egypt, and concrete steps to reunite the Gaza Strip and the West Bank under the legitimate Palestinian government and ensure its effective functioning in the Gaza Strip;

14. *Welcomes* and *urges* further engagement by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process to assist, in cooperation with concerned partners, in the efforts to immediately de-escalate the situation and address urgent infrastructure, humanitarian, and economic development needs, including through the implementation of projects endorsed by the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine the present situation and to submit a written report, as soon as possible, but not later than 60 days from the adoption of the present resolution, containing, *inter alia*, his proposals on ways and means for ensuring the safety, protection and well-being of the Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation, including, *inter alia*, recommendations regarding an international protection mechanism;

16. *Calls* for renewed and urgent efforts to create the conditions necessary to launch credible negotiations on all final status issues to achieve, without delay, an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a comprehensive, just and lasting comprehensive peace based on the vision of a region where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace with secure and recognized borders, on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap, as called for in resolution 2334 (2016) and its other relevant resolutions;

17. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.